The programmes of all Satellite Channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the programmes and advertising codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed there under. The Programme Code prohibits carriage of such programmes in Cable Service, which offend good taste or decency, contain anything obscene and are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. Programmes meant for children are prohibited from carrying explicit scenes of violence.

The Government has constituted a Committee to look into complaints regarding any programme of any channel not being in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code. Government has constituted another committee to look into violations of the Advertising Code.

In so far as the Print media is concerned, the Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of the Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. PCI has set the Norms for Journalistic Conduct according to which Newspapers/Journalists shall not publish anything which is obscene, vulgar or offensive to public and not in good taste.

Percentage of Science Students

†3271. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the report of the University Grants Commission average percentage of science students is decreasing;

(b) if so, the percentage in the beginning of 90's alongwith the estimated percentage at the end of the decade;

(c) whether there is a need to made science education more attractive keeping in view the changing scenario; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the future plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to the UGC, the enrolment of students increased from 19.6% in 1990-91 to 19.9% in 2000-2002 in Science courses being imparted through the formal system of Higher Education in the country.

(c) and (d) Making Science education more attractive & purposeful is a continuous process. The Government has made efforts beginning from the school stage itself to make science courses interesting by making financial provisions for school laboratories, science libraries, training of Science & Mathematics Teachers, for participation in Science Olympiads. NGOs have also been funded for this purpose. The UGC provides support to recognized Science Departments of Universities as Centre for Advance Studies (CAS) to encourage pursuit of excellence under the programme of special assistance. Courses at Master/Bachelor level or special papers undertaken in universities and colleges are supported under the Innovative Programmes and New Emerging Areas. A scheme for strengthening infrastructure for Science and Technology is also in operation since 1983.

Children affected by HIV/AIDS

3272. SHRIMATI S G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring out a scheme to protect, care and support children affected by HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to join hands with U N. agencies to take care of the orphans and vulnerable children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Aids Control Organization is providing services to children affected by HIV/AIDS under National Aids Control Programme, which includes preventive measures to reduce transmission of HIV from the infected mother to her